

approximately 100 miles in an air-line distance from East Lansing, the prevailing southwesterly winds might have accounted for its establishment here, by transporting the light seeds. What other factors are involved in the ecesis of the orchid here, it is not possible at present to state completely. However, as Dr. House has pointed out in his paper (l. c.) an alkaline soil was found correlated with the occurrence of the plants in New York. In the East Lansing locality, the soil reaction is approximately neutral. Detailed studies would doubtless show that other factors are involved.

As to the distribution of this orchid in North America, I am indebted to the late Professor M. L. Fernald and to Dr. Donovan S. Correll for supplying me very generously with the necessary geographic data. Accordingly, *Epipactis Helleborine* is now known from the following states or provinces:

Quebec	Connecticut	Ontario	Indiana
Vermont	New York	Michigan	Missouri
New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin	Montana
Massachusetts	District of Columbia		

The record from Montana, according to Dr. Correll,¹ is probably that of a cultivated plant. The record from Indiana is that reported by Mr. Charles C. Deam (Flora of Indiana, p. 345 (1940)).

These facts suggest that this orchid may be reported from other adjacent mid-western states within the next few years.

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ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF *LUZULA SALTUENSIS*.—The recently developed interest in certain cytological peculiarities, including the diffuse centromere, of species of *Luzula* (Juncaceae) necessitates a critical and accurate appraisal of the taxonomy and nomenclature of the species under investigation. One of the two dozen North American species, *Luzula saltuensis* was clearly distinguished and described by M. L. Fernald in 1903 from

¹ In personal correspondence.

Orono, Maine. It is now said to occur from Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, and southward to northern Illinois¹ and Georgia. In 1938, Fernald² "reduced" *L. saltuensis* to a "variety" of *L. carolinae* S. Wats., and in 1944 he discarded both these species-names in favor of *L. acuminata* Raf.,³ where he says: "It now seems that Rafinesque was nearly 40 years ahead of Watson and more than 60 ahead of me. There can be no doubt that his *L. acuminata* was *L. saltuensis*. His definition of it was good:

1447, *Luz. acuminata* Raf. repens, glabra, fol. lanceol. acum. striatis nervosis spiculis corymbosis congestis paucifloris fuscatis, calic. acum.—Boreal America, perhaps *J. pilosus* Mg. often blended with last, leaves broader and shorter, 3 uncial, stem semipedal, corymb. not exceeding the leaves, fl. small."

Although Fernald says that "there can be no doubt" that the above description applies to *L. saltuensis*, when it is compared carefully point by point with a series of specimens, there seems on the contrary to be a considerable doubt. It should be remembered that there is no type specimen of *L. acuminata*, nor are there any known specimens of any sort to support Rafinesque's description. On account of the repent basal offsets, the term "repens" might be allowed, but the plants are better described as cespitose. The leaves are certainly not wholly glabrous, unless the old leaves from the previous season are examined, and then these are seen to be much more than three inches ("3 uncial") long. If Rafinesque was describing young leaves, then the conclusion is unavoidable that they were not glabrous. The inflorescence of *L. saltuensis* is definitely not congested. It is a loose umbel with a few spreading or drooping, filiform, mostly 1-flowered branches. Finally, the statement "corymb. not exceeding the leaves," does not fit our plants, which have the inflorescences usually overtopping the leaves, and as to the item "fl. small.", *Luzula saltuensis* has the perianth as long or longer at maturity (3–4.5 mm.) than almost any other eastern American species of wood-rush.

On the basis of these evidences it seems clear that Rafinesque's brief description can scarcely be applied to the species described as *Luzula saltuensis* or *L. carolinae*. That these two binomials

¹ Jones, G. N., in *Am. Midl. Nat.* 31: 251, 1944.

² *RHODORA* 40: 404 (1938).

³ *Op. cit.* 46: 4 (1944).

may belong to the same species was tacitly admitted by Fernald (1938) when he says that "very evident transitions occur." Twenty years earlier, Farwell⁴ described as *Juncoides pilosum* var. *michiganense* plants with the dark castaneous perianth that is supposed to be a diagnostic character of *L. carolinae*.

In the event that *Luzula saltuensis* and *L. carolinae* are eventually proved to be the same species, the latter binomial will have to prevail, but in any case the name *L. acuminata* Raf. should be rejected as a *nomen dubium*.—GEORGE NEVILLE JONES, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

THE IDENTITY OF VINBER AND VINLAND.—Some ethnobotanical aspects are involved in the identity of Vinland the Good. According to old Scandinavian sagas, Norsemen under the leadership of Leif Ericson and Thorfinn Karlsefni, were supposed to have come there between the years 1000 and 1006. The plants mentioned are a tree (*mösurr*), a wheat (*hveiti*) and the *vinber*, generally interpreted as the vineplant. According to Fridtjof Nansen, the quotation of wheat and vine is only a reminiscence of medieval legends. To the majority, they refer to specific plants. Old opinion holds that *vinber* could only be a vine (*Vitis*). More recently, Fernald after giving some consideration to the fact that it might have been some red currant, assumed that the *vinber* would more probably be the mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea*). The latter is one of the most popular berries in Scandinavia. It is actually known under the name of *lingon* in Sweden, *tytebaer* in Norway and *raufberjalyng* in Iceland. Fernald's opinion has not been generally accepted. Leroy Andrews, Steensby and Brunn have revived the old opinion which believes it to be a vine. Both interpretations are more or less in accord with the different attempts to localize The Hop, the Norse settlement in Vinland. Vine (*Vitis*) is found on parts of the Maine coast, as well as in the St. Lawrence estuary (Steensby places The Hop at Montmagny, on the south shore, 35 miles below Quebec). If, on the contrary, *vinber* were *Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea*, this interpretation would agree with the various hypotheses of localization because the plant is found in

⁴Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci. 20: 170 (1918).